

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015, at 7:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF RECREATION
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 15, 2015**

President Diane Maglione called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., it having been duly noted that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger on the 31stth day of December 2014. Roll call was taken. Commission members present were: Diane Maglione, Hal Bomzer, Jimmy Coloma, Lloyd Domke, Tom Essig, Kaitlyn Maglione and Tom Strowbridge. Scott Garris, Mercedes Haines, Mary Koegel and David Urbay were excused. Mike Ruiz was absent.

The minutes of the November 20, 2014, meeting were approved.

Correspondence: letter received from Christine Roufupil regarding the basketball program; letter received from Mayor Fosdick thanking the Board for running the annual tree lighting; thank you from Tom Essig for the fruit basket; inquiry from Kim Calabrese about the budget for the Board of Recreation.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Activity reports were as follows:

Bowling – Nothing to report.

Wrestling – The Board has heard of no problems in the program so far. John Tymon will be reminded about the need for EMTs at the January 24 meet. Uly Encarnacion was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

The 2014-2015 season began on November 17th, 2014. There are 36 registered wrestlers in the program. The first tournament was scheduled on December 28th. It was the Golden Griffin Novice tournament. Nine wrestlers completed and they all received medals.

The regular season began on January 3rd 2015 with a match at Becton. Please see outlined schedule to see teams who participated on that day. On Jan 10th we took part in a match at Edgewater and on the next day Jan 11th we competed in a team tournament called the Skip Bailey Invitational held at Saddle Brook High School. (Please see attached results form to see who placed from Ridgefield Park).

On another note, on Jan 2nd we had our 1st mentor practice with our high school program where kids practiced and were given individualized instruction by past members of the recreation program and members of the high school team.

Lastly, please see attached pictures regarding the ordering of a new singlet. As in the past I've brought to the table the ordering of sublimated singlets. While this is better in the long run with not having to replace singlets every 3-5 years, the cost up front is a little bit more -- an extra \$15 from our previous price. The price goes up to \$50 instead of \$35. I am asking that we allow for the purchase of 30 singlets this year and next year approximately 10-20 in the beginning of next season. Also, in the past we have talked about the purchase of a new wrestling mat. I'd like to reopen that conversation and while it may not happen, I'm trying to make sure that our program benefits from it.

Uly also sent an updated roster as well as the season schedule.

Girls' Softball – Lloyd Domke has a meeting on January 19 with the league he normally plays with. There will be another meeting with Little Ferry. There was a misunderstanding that Little League was hosting a team. Registration should take place in February if things work out. The District 6 Little League

was confused. The Board will put in for the same fields that are normally used. Most likely, the Board will work with Little Ferry this year.

Women's Softball – Trophies came in and Peggy Schneider has them. Bella Wagner will be running the party but the Board has not heard from her yet. There is approximately \$900 in funds available for a party. If the women do not want a party, it can be applied to offset registration fees. A meeting will be scheduled for February or March but packets will be sent out to give the teams plenty of time to gather the registrations.

Fourth of July – No activity at this time.

Easter Egg Hunt – The hunt will be scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2015. Mr. Taibi was sent an email to remind him of the hunt so no games are scheduled at that time. There was a discussion on the size of the eggs used and possibly adding more eggs to the younger divisions so everyone has plenty of eggs. The Board thought it might be better to get some bigger eggs so better candy would fit inside the eggs for the older divisions. Members also agreed that prize eggs should be brought back to each division to enhance the hunt.

A motion was made by Lloyd and seconded by Tom Strowbridge to change to bigger eggs for more prizes and give out prize winning eggs again as done in the past; four divisions will need prize eggs, more smaller eggs will be added for younger division so there are more eggs available to the younger children; there will still be a rule of one prize egg per child. All were in favor of this motion.

The members also volunteered to help Mary Koegel fill the eggs since there will be so many eggs to fill and it is a lot of work for one person to do. A note will be emailed to the Guidance Dept. asking for students wishing to get community service hours.

Holiday Display Contest – Mary Koegel could not attend the meeting but sent her report. The contest was held on December 19, 2014. There were 37 entries. There were a lot of first time entries and a lot of entries from previous years that hadn't participated in a while but had not changed at all. Next year Mary would like to note on the flyer about changing the display (and not just moving things from one side of the yard to the other). It was difficult because the judges were trying very hard to be fair. Entries also need to have their house numbers clearly visible.

Prizes were distributed the day after the contest. It took 3 1/5 hours and 15.7 miles of driving around viewing and taking pictures! Mary Koegel is thinking of adding an honorable mention to be available for decorations such as the giant nutcracker on Paulison Ave. It's a shame he wasn't lit up. Since the number of entries increased, it will be considered for next year. And kudos to all the people who played music with their displays. It certainly lightened spirits! Winners were as follows:

Grand Prize: Yngrid Estrella/66 Grand Ave
 1st: Orquidia Sanchez/281 Teaneck Road
 2nd: McEntee Family/134 Mt. Vernon Street
 3rd: Rafael Rosario/11 Arthur Street
 4th: Billy Featherstone/34 Teaneck Road

The Clerk's Office suggested that the ballot drop off box be brought back. There were some people who tried to drop off their entry after the Clerk's Office closed and there was no place to leave it.

The Board needs to stress that the holiday contest is really more a way to advertise and share the spirit of the season with our residents and to thank them for helping to do so. The idea was suggested to put pictures of all those houses being entered on our website.

Wish Tree – Kaitlyn Maglione has spoken to Kathy Tobin of the Welfare Department. There were about 30 kids on the list this year. Kathy Tobin distributed more tags to some of the community organizations. There were only about 6 tags that were not returned but gifts were purchased for these children. There will be a new liaison with the Welfare Department next year as Kathy is changing positions.

Tree Lighting – Mercedes Haines was not able to attend the meeting. It seemed to work well with the scouts and chorus singing together. Thank you notes were sent to everyone involved. The Board would like to try to think of ways to enhance the lighting to make it a bit more festive and involve Santa more. One suggestion was possibly giving out hot chocolate next year. Further discussion will be had on the lighting. The ballot will be changed to list a spot to check off boy or girl since some of the names are unisex.

Rag-A-Muffin — No activity at this time but a discussion was had about adding a DJ to entertain the crowd while conducting registration, lining up and waiting for the announcement of winners. Members decided it would enhance the parade and make it more festive. A motion was made by Lloyd Domke and seconded by Kaitlyn Maglione to add a DJ to the Rag-A-Muffin parade to enhance the parade. All were in favor of this motion.

Adult Trips/Activities – No activities at this time.

Adult Craft Classes – No activities at this time.

Basketball – The season has been going smoothly so far other than a problem at the very start of the season caused by two players not responding to any telephone calls, emails, letters, and having to be replaced. Coaches/colors/teams and schedules are posted on the internet. There was a discussion about payment for referees and the problem in keeping trained referees as the pay scale is much lower than other opportunities available to the referees. Officials for school games are paid \$58 for sub-varsity and \$78 for varsity games. It was decided that it would be fair to pay Board referees \$35 per game.

A motion was made by Jimmy Coloma and seconded by Tom Strowbridge to change the referees pay to \$35.00 per game. All were in favor of this motion.

There have been several bounced checks that the Board is trying to get reimbursed for. Hal Bomzer will remind the division leaders to double-check their books before they are turned in to make sure they are properly filled out and all information is written in for every game.

David Urbay was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report for the traveling teams. Girls (6/7/8) team was not able to be set up as the league did not have enough teams to set a schedule. David has been setting up independent games with the teams that were able to get girls. The girls won the first game.

The boys 5/6 and 7/8 teams are playing. Uniforms should be in this week. Both teams are 1-1. Payment was given to HYB. David has the receipt.

Diane Maglione has not heard back from Matt McArow regarding the background checks. Captain Hippe has previously informed the Board that a Village ordinance was needed in order to do background checks but Commissioner MacNeill said the Board could run them on their own but he did not provide the Board with a system to do so. The Board would need some type of administrator who would be the secured keeper of the info.

Diane will not allow the Board members to be held liable for something they do not have control over. The Board will await information from Matt McArow of GJEM regarding background checks.

Diane Maglione still has not heard back from Commissioner MacNeill on background checks. The Mayor did copy the Board on a memo dated November 21, 2014, to the Board of Commissioners, Attorney Boggia and Chief Rose, regarding background checks and asking if the Village could set up a background check procedure for the Board of Rec only. There has been no further communication on this.

The Board has been in contact with Steve Savage from Hackensack. He sent over the procedure that Hackensack follows as far as background checks, which is as follows:

The Board would have to contact the NJ State Police ID Criminal Information Unit and file for a VRO

(Volunteer Review Organization) to be able to conduct background checks and do fingerprinting. When the State is advised it is for a municipality to have its Recreation Board do background checks, the fee will be waived. Once you get the VRO number, the coaches are sent to Paramus and the fee is about \$27.50 to have them do the fingerprinting.

He also sent over the packet that Hackensack uses in order for their volunteers to be able to coach. Diane Maglione will review this information.

Tennis – Barry Ruback (568-3946) runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. No activity at this time.

Treasurer's Report - Beginning balance as of November 2014 was \$37,930.42, total deposits for month were \$2,723.66, total expenses for month were \$3,192.59 leaving a balance of \$37,437.49. A detailed report is attached. There have been a few bounced checks.

Beginning balance as of December 2014 was \$37,437.49, total deposits for month were \$355.00; total expenses for month were \$32,095.79 leaving a balance of \$37,437.49. A detailed report is attached.

The Board is trying to get reimbursed for the checks. A motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Lloyd Domke to approve the treasurer's report. All were in favor of this motion.

New Business – The Board has not heard anything further from Rodney Craft regarding the summer program he wants to set up. Hal Bomzer said Rodney is still interested in running this program

Lloyd Domke asked if the Board would consider adding another job box on Field 3 for the softball program if it enlarges. The Board agreed that the job box would come in useful for all the programs and had no problem adding another job box to Field #3. A motion was made by Lloyd Domke and seconded by Tom Strowbridge to add another job box to Field #3. All were in favor of this motion.

Jimmy Coloma asked if the Board could recommend that some type of protective fencing be put by Field #4 and the Little League field so that children playing in the park are protected from swinging bats or balls hitting them. The Board will suggest this at the next safety meeting.

Old Business – The Board has sent Commissioner MacNeill information on doing background checks.

Board clothing has to be ordered for David Urbay, who was recently added to the Board of Recreation. All members will be asked if they need any clothing "refreshed" as it has been sometime since clothing was ordered for the members.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2015.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Hal Bomzer and seconded by Jimmy Coloma to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Adam MacNeill